

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Geary
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:	First Territorial Capitol
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:			
On K-18 in Fort Riley Military Reservation			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
near Junction City		no. 2, Bill Roy	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Kansas	20	Geary	061

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:	State of Kansas
STREET AND NUMBER:	State Capitol
CITY OR TOWN:	Topeka
STATE:	Kansas
CODE	20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Register of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER:	Geary County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN:	Junction City
STATE:	Kansas
CODE	20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY:	1965	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:	Washington	STATE:	D. C.	CODE
				08

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☒ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Philosophy☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ itarian☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first territorial legislature of Kansas was called by Gov. Andrew H. Reeder to meet in Pawnee on July 2, 1855. The governor was a member of the Pawnee Town Association which had laid out the new town adjacent to the Fort Riley Military Reservation.

The legislature met in a large two-story native stone warehouse built by the Pawnee Town Association. The lower floor was used as the house chamber and the senate occupied the upper floor.

Most of the members of the legislature were Proslavery adherents from border towns and many of them had interests in Missouri. Consequently they felt Pawnee was too far west and too isolated to be the capital. So they passed a law on July 4 providing for the temporary establishment of the capital at Shawnee Mission in Johnson county. The governor vetoed this on July 6, but the legislature passed the law over his veto and promptly adjourned to meet at Shawnee Mission July 16.

The town of Pawnee went out of existence in the fall of 1855 when it was found to be within the boundaries of the Fort Riley reservation. For a time the former capitol was used as an army warehouse, but then it was allowed to deteriorate into ruins.

A major reconstruction project in 1927, financed mainly by the Union Pacific railroad on whose right of way the building partly stands, returned the building as nearly as possible to its condition in 1855. After the preservation work was completed, the Union Pacific railroad presented the building to the state of Kansas, and it is now operated as a museum by the State Historical Society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS